Happy New Year! Here’s an overview of the Friends highlights during the 20th century:

Many memberships acquired (current total is 545)

Interesting speakers & programs presented (our 2 fall programs for this year, Craig Abbott, Reader Beware ..., and Tom Joyce, Your Old Books in the Attic ..., were as informative as they were FUN!)

Literally hundreds of materials given to the NIU Libraries (1999 gifts from the Friends of NIU Libraries were 2 microfilm series: Papers of the Society of American Indians, 1906-1946, 10 reels, and The Indian Rights Association, 1885-1901, 24 reels)

Link established to Friends of Libraries USA (gives us opportunities to communicate with other Friends groups to exchange ideas, receive training, and get financial support)

Ensuring the Future with a leaf, acorn, stone, or mini-tree in Founders Memorial Library foyer inaugurated

Numerous member volunteers helped with book sales, programs, board, and more

National recognition and $1000 given by Baker & Taylor to FNIUL as the most outstanding Friends group 1998-99

Ingenious campaigns for support engineered

Unanimous desire to do better in the 21st century

Multiple THANX to all FNIUL members for your help and support!

Hope to see you at the first FNIUL program of the new century, How Did a Hero of the American Revolution Come to Sycamore, Illinois? presented by Thomas Woodstrup, at the Country Inn Restaurant, February 21, 2000, 6 p.m. buffet dinner, 7:30 p.m. program.
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Submissions for the NEXT edition of Founders’ Type are welcome. All submissions will be considered and printed as space allows. Please direct any such materials to: Samuel Huang, Northern Illinois University Libraries, DeKalb, IL 60115. All unsigned items are contributed by the editors.

Dime novels played a significant role in forging the idea of the popular American character during the Reconstruction and early Industrial eras. Dime novels originally were written for young readers. The novels were mass produced and distributed at newsstands and in retail stores. Examined as a group, the numerous series of dime novels constitute an ongoing morality play that molded the imagination of young minds during the transition period from the closing of the frontier to the first phases of modern, industrialized, urban America. Many of the enduring themes of American popular culture, including the frontier ethic of hard work and self-reliance, romanticized and popularized outlaws, negative depictions of Native Americans, urban rags-to-riches stories, and even early detective heroes were honed and diffused throughout the growing and maturing nation in the form of dime novels. Modern users of the dime novel in its original published format tend to be researchers and scholars of this popular form of literature. Other researchers come to the collection based on an interest in one or more known authors. Some users of the dime novel collection are collectors and aficionados from the general public. The current mode of access to the original artifacts does not encourage use by young people themselves, the target audience for these publications.

The Northern Illinois University Libraries’ Albert Johannsen Collection is Johannsen’s bibliographic masterwork continues to keep the knowledge of a major portion of this literature from vanishing, even though many of the little yellow-back books he enjoyed, collected, enumerated, and described so devotedly may crumble into dust.

Johannsen’s own collection of Beadle and Adams Dime Novels and other popular literature of the late 19th century. Upon his retirement in 1937 as a faculty member of the University of Chicago, Albert Johannsen had completed a long and distinguished scientific career. He had published numerous important articles in petrography and written the standard textbook and manual on the subject. His monumental four-volume Descriptive Petrography of the Igneous Rocks is still in print and in use today despite its 1930s publication date. Geologists in this field of study have expressed doubts that the work will ever be supplanted by new scholarship. In addition to his teaching and writing, Johannsen was an active contributor and long-time editor of the Journal of Geology. That journal commemorated his retirement with a supplemental issue devoted to the field of petrography, the area of interest in which he was preeminent.

Johannsen spent the majority of his full and productive academic life in the
midwestern region of the United States. Born in Belle Plaine, Iowa in 1871, he graduated from the University of Illinois in 1895 with a B.S. degree in architectural engineering. His brother, Oskar, who subsequently had an equally distinguished career as an entomologist, graduated with him. Following a variety of jobs and experience as a field assistant with the U.S. Geological Survey in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, he returned to school and received a B.S. degree from the University of Utah in 1898. He became a graduate student at Johns Hopkins University in 1900, majoring in petrography and minorng in chemistry. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi and received his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University in 1903.3

Johannsen did field work in the American west while employed by the U.S. Geological Survey from 1903 until early 1910. He had become Acting Chief of the Section of Petrology of the Survey before he left government service to become a permanent member of the staff of the Department of Geology at the University of Chicago.

Throughout his career Johannsen was an active and avid collector, classifier, and cataloger of many things. At his retirement he left his collection of almost 5,000 rock specimens to the University of Chicago. Outside the area of geology he collected postage stamps, commemorative coins, autographs of U.S. vice presidents, family genealogical information, first editions of early 19th century illustrated books—particularly works by Dickens—and dime novels, especially those yellow books issued by the publishing firm of Beadle and Adams. These non-scientific collecting interests and his writings about them were to be, for him, a second career. This golden age career was as productive and distinguished as the previous one, and almost as equally long. He reportedly enjoyed it more wholeheartedly because it greatly expanded his circle of associates interested in similar pursuits, and it utilized his considerable talents as artist, photographer, diligent pursuer of facts, and meticulous compiler of details.

The decade of the 1950s witnessed the published results of Johannsen’s years of collecting activity and interests in non-geologic matters. Although the idea of compiling a bibliography of the publications of the Beadle and Adams firm was conceived and work begun in the autumn of 1933, it was not until 1950 that his two volume The House of Beadle and Adams and Its Dime and Nickel Novels was published by the University of Oklahoma Press.4 The work was much more than a mere listing of publications. It became a history of the firm, a collective biography and a who’s who of the publishers and almost all of the hundreds of authors who ever wrote for the firm, and a numerical list of thousands of titles in almost 80 different series of publications. Of the 7,294 known Beadle and Adams publications, Johannsen had gathered 6,150 of them in his own collection. In compiling his bibliography, he personally examined all but a half dozen items which appeared to be unattainable in any form.

The research required for the bibliography and history was basic, and had to be completed in minute detail before any of the enumerative work could begin. This research was complicated by the fact that most of the novels included in the study were reprinted many times in a number of different periodical publications, often with changes of title or with the inversion or alteration of the ubiquitous sub-titles. The interchangeable use of several pseudonyms by many authors and the achievement of total anonymity by some of the pseudonymous authors further complicated the task.

Once the identification of the multitudinous stories and their authors was established, much time had to be devoted to the compilation of title and sub-title indexes, character indexes, first line indexes, plot synopses, and plot comparisons. Some reliance had to be placed on the memories of the compiler and his collecting colleagues for these comparisons. These

Continued on page 6 ...
“History is replete with fakes and forgeries.” So started the first program of the Friends of NIU Libraries for the 1999-2000 season, “Reader Beware: Fakes and Forgeries,” presented by Dr. Craig Abbott, director of undergraduate English on campus. Dr. Abbott’s areas of specialization include bibliography, textual studies, and 20th-century American poetry.

While focused mostly on fakes and forgeries in literature, Dr. Abbott reminded the audience that fakes are not limited to literature, but can also be found in other fields, such as science and archaeology. They can also be found where least expected, for example, while Gutenberg’s invention of movable type holds enormous significance in the history of printing and communication, the Gutenberg Bible is a facsimile, or fake, of the original scriptorium edition. The notion of reprints and facsimiles as fakes has been carried to such an extent to cause one scholar to ask, perhaps facetiously, “Fakes and forgeries, what else is there in English?”

For much of the program, Dr. Abbott provided examples of fakes and forgeries, aided with slide pictures. While documents may look original, many are reprints, with some being quite old and valuable in themselves. While oftentimes difficult to detect, tell-tail signs of fakes can include yellowed paper instead of the original non-yellowed rag paper, and type fonts that may show variations from the original.

Travel is often an area of deception where much hyperbole and conjecture are found. For example, George Psalmanazar forged a fake travel guide to Formosa in the early 18th century. The guide included a fake Formosan alphabet, sketches of inhabitants, complete with fake costumes, and a fake language created out of gibberish. Considering that few, if any, traveled to Formosa during this time, the book was believed and became widely popular. In 1928, *Alger: A Biography Without a Hero* by Herbert R. Mayes, a biography of Horatio Alger, was published. The book was a fabrication and the author confessed to making up the text. Fabrications have also appeared in standard reference works, for instance, *Appleton’s Cyclopedia of American Biography*, 7 vols. (1894). After a preliminary check of the entries, it was estimated by one reviewer that at least 47 “biographical ghosts,” that is, biographies of persons who never lived, were included.

There are many other examples of fakes and forgeries, especially those found in plagiarized text. Extended investigation is often required to prove a document fake. Abbott ended his presentation with a personal example from his own investigation of the poet Scharmel Iris. Scharmel Iris, a popular poet of his day, not only borrowed from the poetry of others, but also built a reputation by using fake endorsements from other notable poets, used, in turn, to promote his works. As many believed the endorsements, he was recognized by many of his day as an established poet.

-Byron Anderson
Your Old Books in the Attic

The second program of the Friends of NIU Libraries 1999-2000 season was an evening spent with Mr. Thomas Joyce, antiquarian book dealer and owner of Joyce and Company of Chicago (400 N. Racine). Joyce and Company specializes in first editions, rare books, and autographs. This was the third Friends presentation for Mr. Joyce, and he noted the increased attendance at this program.

The presentation was on how to appraise old books. A book can have different values. The fair market value is the price that an informed buyer would pay an informed seller. Replacement value is generally a higher value based on an assumed inflation.

Probate value is for tax purposes which can be either lower—favorable for estate purposes, or higher—favorable for write-off purposes. Wholesale value is the book buyer price. Price is based on supply and demand, further factored by the book’s condition, edition, and other variables such as sudden fame of the author. Interestingly, a book’s dust jacket can increase the value, especially if it is in good condition. Finally, certain presses as a press item can have value.

Mr. Joyce indicated that the book trade itself is being changed by the Internet. Years back, value may have been partially derived on a book being the only known copy in Illinois or in the Midwest. Now that is diminished given the national and global reach of the Internet. In addition, the Internet is affecting the book trade by being able to sell copies for less. Lower prices are based on lower overheads. At the same time, online auctions can drive the price of a book beyond its fair market value.

During the conclusion, Mr. Joyce appraised and commented on approximately two dozen books brought in by those attending. Audience members kept a focused sense of curiosity as to the value of each book. Appraisals ran from lows of approximately five dollars to highs into the hundreds of dollars. While giving brief explanation as to a book’s value, Mr. Joyce also gave numerous tips on preservation. Noteworthy was his formula for preserving leather bindings: a 50/50 mix of needsfoot oil and lanolin rubbed into the leather.

For serious book collectors, three reference books were recommended: first, Edward Zempel’s First Editions: A Guide to Identification, 2nd edition; second, Ahern’s Collected Books, 2nd edition (1998); and third, American Book Prices Current. The latter provides auction records, and an index volume will lead to the contents in the annual volumes.

Mr. Joyce appraises a book from the audience.

Peggy Sullivan and Friends’ president Christa Even talk with lecture attendees.

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helpful colleagues were usually fellow members of the Happy Hours Brotherhood, an organization of dime novel collectors whose journal was founded in 1931 and which is still being published as The Dime Novel Round-Up.

Johannsen’s Beadle and Adams volumes were acclaimed as a meticulous bibliography as well as a major contribution to American literary and social history. The dedication of the work reads: “Written for collectors of Americana, Librarians, and Booksellers and for those who are nostalgic for the Books of their Youth.” All the dedicatees, past and present, have had reason to be grateful for Johannsen’s work. Almost immediately after the publication of The House of Beadle and Adams, the author began work on a supplemental third volume which appeared posthumously in 1962.

During these years, Johannsen was compiling another bibliographic work of a slightly different nature, based largely on his own collection of the works of Charles Dickens. In 1956 the University of Chicago Press published his Phiz, Illustrations from the Novels of Charles Dickens. In this work he corrected the mistaken popular belief that George Cruikshank was the chief illustrator of the novels, and restored Hablot Knight Browne (1815-1882), known by his pseudonym of Phiz, to that position. Illustrations by other illustrators of Dickens’ works and comparisons of the various copies of original engraving plates, some of which Johannsen owned, were made with the same meticulous attention to detail that had characterized the Beadle and Adams bibliography.

Johannsen continued to be active in dime novel research projects. Short articles by him appeared in two issues of The Dime Novel Round-Up in 1957, and his 52 page list of the titles in The Nickel Library was published as a supplement to the April 1959 issue of that journal. The Nickel Library, one of many similar story papers of the era, was published in 920 issues by the Pictorial Publishing Company of Chicago, and no complete set of the title had been gathered or described to that date.

Johannsen died at his home in Winter Park, Florida, at the age of 90, after a brief illness. His brother Oskar had died a few months earlier at the age of 91. Professional colleagues and students respectfully recalled to mind Johannsen and his enduring contribution to scientific scholarship. Those who knew him more intimately acknowledged that Johannsen had made an equally enduring and more widely known contribution to the humanities with his publications about his collection interests. The House of Beadle and Adams and Its Dime and Nickel Novels is sub-titled The Story of a Vanished Literature. Johannsen’s bibliographic masterwork continues to keep the knowledge of a major portion of this literature from vanishing, even though many of the little yellow back books he enjoyed, collected, enumerated, and described so devotedly may crumble into dust.

Several years after the death of Johannsen, the Northern Illinois University Libraries acquired his professional and personal library through a Chicago book dealer. In addition to the 6,150 Beadle and Adams publications, the acquisition included 2,108 periodical issues, and 560 books and pamphlets related to the dime novels and to Beadle and Adams. Several boxes of miscellaneous manuscript material, photographs, glass photographic plates, negatives, scrapbooks, professional reference books, a manuscript diary, family genealogical materials, a collection of autographs of geologists, comic valentines, and postcards were also included in the purchase.

Continued on page 7...
All the dime novels of Beadle and Adams included in this acquisition have been cataloged and are available for use in the special collections area of the Northern Illinois University library. This collection is accessible via Illinet Online, OCLC, and the Internet. Illinet Online is a network involving more than 800 academic, public, and specialized libraries throughout Illinois. Through OCLC and the Internet, libraries, scholars, and researchers all over the world can access this unique and comprehensive collection.

The Johannsen Collection comprises a major portion of the burgeoning assemblage of popular and juvenile literature that appeared in the United States during the last half of the 19th century and the early decades of the present century. The Northern Illinois University Libraries holdings of dime novels is one of several similar large collections in university and public libraries. Over the years, the Northern Illinois University Libraries have continued to acquire Beadle and Adams dime novels and have received donations from collectors, strengthening the existing collection. It is one of the largest collections of its kind and is the only one to have been gathered by the man who wrote the definitive book on the subject of dime novels in America. That work will grant a measure of immortality to a portion of the decaying—but not yet dead—literature which was rarely found in a public library and which was popularly credited with the ability to ruin the lives of young readers.

Samuel T. Huang
Curator, Rare Books & Special Collections
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If we have missed your name or have listed it incorrectly, we apologize. Please call us at 815.753.9838 and we will correct it immediately.
Annual Book Sale Needs Volunteers

The Friends of NIU Libraries has a great need for volunteers to do specific tasks involved with the Annual Book Sale, to be held April 18-20, 2000. We welcome anyone who can lend us a hand as a worker: Friends, family, colleagues, students. Please check those activities for which you you are able to volunteer and return to us by March 31, 2000.

_____ **Pick up books** from individuals and deliver to library (on call between now and April 18). Please check below:

_____ DeKalb and Sycamore only.

_____ Within one hundred miles of DeKalb

_____ **Sort books** by subject before the Book Sale (on call between now and April 18).

_____ **Set up for the Book Sale**. Please check below:

_____ April 17, Monday (1:00 to 5:00 p.m.). Move boxes to the Book Sale site.

_____ April 18, Tuesday morning (after 8:00 a.m.). Finish moving boxes, unpack, and arrange on tables.

_____ April 18, Tuesday afternoon (before 5:00 p.m.). Unpack books and arrange on tables.

_____ **Work during the Book Sale** (sell books and straighten up tables). Please check below:

_____ April 18, Tuesday night, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. (Members only sale).

_____ April 19, Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

_____ 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  ____ 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

_____ 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.  ____ 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

_____ 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

_____ April 20, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

_____ 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  ____ 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

_____ 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.  ____ 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

_____ **Clean up after the Book Sale** Thursday, April 20, 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Pack books and move from sale area.

Your name: _____________________________________________

Telephone: _____________________________________________

Please give/send this information to or call:

Samuel Huang (753-9838)

University Libraries

Northern Illinois University

DeKalb, IL  60115

Thank you for your participation!
Up-coming Program

The up-coming Friends’ program is entitled, "How Did a Hero of the American Revolution Come to Sycamore, Illinois?" It will be presented by local historian, Thomas Woodstrup at the Country Inn Restaurant of Sycamore on February 21, 2000 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Woodstrup, a Chicago native, served in the armed forces during World War II. Following his service he attended Northern Illinois State Teachers College, the University of Illinois, Illinois Institute of Technology, and NIU. While at Northern, he was editor of the campus newspaper and a member of Alpha Delta and Sigma Tau Delta.

Following college, Mr. Woodstrup taught at Millegeville and Argo high schools, NIU Adult Education, and Waubonsee Community College. He has worked for United Air Lines and DeKalb and Kane Counties and is currently volunteer editor of Cornsilk, the quarterly of the DeKalb County Historical and Genealogical Society.

Mr. Woodstrup’s writing experience includes writing and editing books and newsletters for church, veterans, and political organizations. Upon retirement, he compiled and published his and his mother’s letters of WWII, entitled, A Flip on a Jackstay and a shorter version, Mother Prayed a Bomb Would Drop. He has also published a book of original poetry, Computer Poetry, and a history of St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Sycamore. His most recent work is Captain Benjamin Page, A Forgotten Rhode Island Hero of the American Revolution.

Reservations for this program and buffet are required and may be made between January 3 and February 14, 2000 by calling 815.753.9838 or by sending an email to: libraryfriend@niu.edu. The buffet, which costs $11.00, includes dinner, drink, and dessert and must be paid in advance. Checks may be made payable to: Country Inn Restaurant and should be sent to the Friends of NIU Libraries, Northern Illinois University Libraries, DeKalb, IL 60115.

A Friendly Reminder ...

We know you are very busy, however, this is just a friendly reminder to request that you please check your address labels for the renewal date of your Friends’ membership. Since we do not send out reminder letters, we must rely solely upon this method for the collection of membership dues. So, please turn over your newsletter and check the mailing label. Above your name and address there should appear the word “Renewal,” followed by the month and year your membership is due. If your membership were due in January 2000, your mailing label would appear as:

Thank you!

Renewal: 01/00
John Doe
1234 Main Street
Anywhere, IL 60554
Member News

Welcome New Members!

Benefactors: Henrietta Wright.
Donors: Wilma Miranda and Beth & Michael Witherell.
Individual Members:
Neil Blackstone, Ngoyi Bukonda, Martha Cooper, Michael Day, Jim Fogarty, Elaine Johansen, Eleanor Pierce, and Timothy Skinner.
Student Members:
Jonathan Nichols and Marilyn Sjoholm.

Correction
The article, "Centennial Celebration" that appeared in Founders' Type, no. 20 (Summer 1999) was written by Joan Metzger. We apologize for this omission.

Dr. Witherell will present Henry Thoreau in the Library to the Friends on April 12, 2000, 7:30 p.m., Staff Lounge, FML.

http://libws66.lib.niu.edu/thoreau/

The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau, also known as the Thoreau Edition, are settled in their offices on the third floor of Founders Memorial Library and held an open house on November 19, 1999. Beth Witherell, Editor-in-Chief, Lihong Xie, Assistant Editor, Mary Shelden, Editorial Assistant, and Minka Misangyi, Graduate Assistant, are working on this project which began in 1966 as an attempt to recover the lost words of this influential American writer. For more information, please visit their web-site at:

http://libws66.lib.niu.edu/thoreau/